

must work closely with President Akayev to encourage additional reforms.

Still, the Kyrgyz people are hungry for democracy and thirsty for economic prosperity. The future of the Kyrgyzstan rests in the hands of its young people. And it is a bright future. With this in mind, it is encouraging to see the hard work of the First Lady of Kyrgyzstan on behalf of the children in her country. The U.S. must continue to support these efforts.

Kyrgyzstan has also been a strong supporter of the United States' war on terrorism. President Akayev has cooperated in allowing the use of an airbase in Bishkek and the government has helped with providing information on terrorist cells in the region.

A prosperous Kyrgyzstan is important for regional security and stability. Therefore, we must work together to continue building relations between Kyrgyzstan and the U.S.

#### 116TH AIR CONTROL WING

### HON. SAXBY CHAMBLISS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 26, 2002*

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. Speaker, as a member of the House Armed Services Committee, I support many of the transformation initiatives our military is undertaking. Through the vision and leadership of Secretary Roche and General Jumper, the Air Force has been a leading proponent of transformation. The Joint Surveillance Target Attack Radar System, or JSTARS, and the 116th Air National Guard unit at Robins Air Force Base are a prime example of a transformational mission. These unique units are on the verge of becoming even more transformational as they blend Air National Guard personnel into the active JSTARS unit.

On Monday, September 30, 2002 the Guard's 116th Bomb Wing and the active duty 93rd Air Control Wing will merge into a first of its kind "blended Wing." The new wing will operate all of the Air Force's Joint STARS aircraft. It is a mission of considerable importance. The J-STARS aircraft can find and track moving targets on the ground hundreds of miles into enemy territory and are prized assets and constantly in demand by theater commanders.

Developing a blended unit has proven to be a daunting task. However, the Air Force and members of both the 93rd Air Control wing and the 116th Bomb Wing have stepped up to the plate and cleared every hurdle in their way. Secretary Roche stated that "Outdated laws and policies would have to change to reflect requirements in command-and-control, fiscal, and personnel issues," and he was right. The members of the Air National Guard and the Air Force Reserve have worked tirelessly to achieve a "blended wing" and have done it in an exceptional fashion.

The Air Force has long been the model of full and seamless integration of the Reserve Components. Its Guard and Reserve associate programs are long-term success stories that maximize weapon system utilization while leveraging the expertise of Guard and Reserve personnel. Strong national defense rests on the foundation of a well-equipped, well-trained and mobile military force. The 116th

has been and will continue to be the pinnacle of professionalism and honor; and will continue to be ready—Anytime-Anywhere.

I would like to commend the vision, leadership, and stalwart dedication that Major General David Poythress, Colonel Tom Lynn, Colonel David Fadok, and all the people that helped make this day possible. It is the strong commitment by everyone involved to their country, to the war-fighter, and to Robins that makes this day truly great.

#### IN REMEMBRANCE OF SEPTEMBER 11

### HON. BERNARD SANDERS

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 26, 2002*

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, our nation was forever changed on the morning of Sept 11. The goal of Osama bin Laden was to demoralize us, create fear, uncertainty and instability in our country—he failed. Last week Congress met in New York to pay tribute to those who were killed, and I was reminded how strong and resilient our country truly is. Last September 11 we saw amazing displays of heroism and bravery. I will never forget the sight of firemen entering the World Trade Center risking their lives to save others.

We have also learned a great deal since Sept 11. We've learned that we are a vulnerable nation, and that we must lead an international coalition against bigoted, religious fanatics who believe they have the right to kill in order to impose their reactionary ideology on others. Many of us also have learned that in order to be true to American values, we must not undermine the fundamental principles and constitutional rights that our country was founded on.

As an American and a Vermonter, I was enormously proud of how our people responded to this crisis in terms of blood donations, financial contributions and coming together as a community to support the victims and each other. It is my hope that we will continue to show that same sense of community that we demonstrated in the aftermath of the September 11 attacks.

#### HONORING JUDGE JOSEPH LODGE

### HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 26, 2002*

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to pay tribute to an extraordinary citizen of California's central coast, Judge Joseph Lodge. As both a judge and a teacher at the University of California, Santa Barbara, there is no question as to how much Judge Lodge has given to the Santa Barbara community and I am very pleased to have the opportunity to honor him.

In 1955, after graduating from the University of Michigan School of Law, Joe Lodge began his legal career by working as a clerk for the chief judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals, 6th Circuit. In 1956 Joe moved to Santa Barbara, which he has called home ever since. He became the first full-time attorney in the Santa

Barbara suburb, Goleta, and in 1958, at the young age of 26, he made the decision to run for a part-time judgeship in a local court. In 1965, after the South Coast courts merged, Judge Lodge became a full-time judge in the municipal court, although he still found time to continue teaching at UCSB. In 1998, Judge Lodge was moved to the Superior Court, where he sits now.

Judge Lodge holds the distinction of being the longest sitting trial judge in the State of California. Not only has he dedicated the last 44 years to presiding on the bench, but he has also spent the last 42 years teaching an extremely popular criminal justice course at UCSB. Since Judge Lodge has vowed never to retire, the residents of the central coast decided to throw him an "In-Lieu-of-Retirement Party" on the evening of Thursday, September 26.

The Santa Barbara community has benefited greatly from the many, many years of service Judge Lodge has dedicated. His wisdom and fairness has played a part in so many people's lives and it is truly fitting that we have the opportunity to honor him today.

#### PAYING TRIBUTE TO: J. NICHOLAS MCGRATH

### HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 26, 2002*

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I recognize the life and passing of J. Nicholas McGrath of Basalt, Colorado. Mr. McGrath was a very prominent and well-respected attorney not only in the State of Colorado but also throughout the entire nation. As his family mourns their loss, I would like to pay tribute to the life and accomplishments of Nicholas McGrath before this body of Congress and this nation.

Nicholas McGrath graduated from Columbia University Law School in 1965 magna cum laude. After law school he clerked for Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall. He is listed in Who's Who in America, Who's Who in American Law, Who's Who in the world, and Bar Register of Preeminent Lawyers in the United States. Mr. McGrath specialized primarily in land use law and litigation with the firm of Oates, McGrath, and Jordan, in Aspen, Colorado.

Despite a demanding career, Mr. McGrath still found the time to become actively involved in his community. Mr. McGrath participated extensively in many Basalt recreational programs and was president of the Basalt soccer club. He was extremely dedicated to expanding many of Basalt's youth programs throughout the community and is responsible for providing many kids with the opportunity to play organized sports. At his own children's sporting events, he was always Nick and Molly's biggest fan.

Mr. Speaker, it is in earnest respect that I recognize the memory of Mr. J. Nicholas McGrath before this body of Congress and this nation for the irreplaceable contributions he made to the community of Basalt and the State of Colorado. My sincere condolences go out to his wife Rosemary and to his children Nicholas and Molly McGrath. While his loss will be deeply felt, the memory of his kindness